

**Committee on Natural Resources  
Legislative Hearing  
1324 Longworth House Office Building  
April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2019  
10:00 AM**

**Legislative Hearing on**  
*H.R. 1904, the "Indian Water Rights Settlement Extension Act"*

**Questions from Rep. TJ Cox** for Alan Mikkelsen, Senior Advisor to the Secretary, Water and Western Resource Issues, Department of the Interior

- Mr. Mikkelsen, the current contributions from contractors to the Reclamation Fund are increasing the \$16 billion surplus in the Fund at a rate of nearly \$1 billion each year. These funds could be used for a host of priorities, including maintaining and restoring the capacity of critical infrastructure like the Delta-Mendota Canal and Friant-Kern Canals in the San Joaquin Valley, or increasing drought resilience by increasing water storage capacity like raising San Luis Reservoir, in addition to implementing Indian Water Rights Settlements.

If Congress were to take action to significantly increase appropriations from the Reclamation Fund, does Reclamation have the personnel in place that would be needed to move many of these projects forward in a timely manner? If not, what type of personnel would be needed and what's the lead time for staffing up?